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Voice Of America



ROYCE BRIER

Caribbean Islands Just One Unbearable Headache

When Christopher Columbus coasted among the Greater Antilles in the 1490s, the islands were sparsely inhabited by Indians.

The admiral could not bring any ideas of freedom to the islanders, for Spain was not exporting such ideas. The colonizers who followed either killed the natives off or enslaved them.

Jamaica and western Hispaniola were peopled by Negroes during the African slave trade. We have done reasonably well in introducing self-government to Puerto Rico, as have the British in Jamaica. But the rest of the islands over the past 350 years have seen over 300 petty despots, some native, some Spanish governors.

Over half of that period they have been a minor headache to Washington. Occasionally in recent decades we have pacified parts of them for some months or years.

Some of these interventions were to protect American investments, some to protect American lives. But they

only gave us a bad name (which we have not lived down) with the Latin Americans. They have been costly as well in dollars, and results have been meager. Hence intervention now is as unfashionable as it ever was unprofitable.

Latin American nations, however, which have achieved a measure of self-government, have joined us in a hemispheric league called Organization of American States, and if we have to act, we would rather act through O.A.S.

This is our present quandary in Haiti, the western half of Hispaniola.

Since independence in 1804, Haiti has had over 130 political convulsions, mostly establishing or overthrowing regimes by violence. The United States pacified the country with Marines between 1915 and 1934, but it didn't stay pacified. President Francois Duvalier was elected to a six-year term in 1957, and two years ago declared himself re-elected for another six years. The country exports coffee and a

few other tropical products, and has a per capita income of \$70 yearly. Like previous regimes, Duvalier's is financially irresponsible. Since 1946 the United States has granted \$101 million in aid, most of it down a rat-hole.

Travelers to Port-au-Prince say the country outside the capital is virtually a slum, and the nation has the highest illiteracy rate in the hemisphere.

What has annoyed the United States is the open brutality of the Duvalier regime, and aid has been almost discontinued.

Duvalier with good reason distrusts his army, and operates with a palace guard divided into roaming armed squads and undercover men. Under their ministrations civil rights have vanished. Naturally many Castro agents have infiltrated, and Duvalier one day threatens to turn the country over to them, the next day promises a reign of terror of his own.

But whether the present flurry subsidies, or goes on to war or revolution, Duvalier's days appear to be numbered.

A Bookman's Notebook

About Willie Mays and Other Literary Figures

The zenith, or maybe the nadir of non-book production has been reached with the publication of "Danger in Center Field," by Willie Mays and Jeff Harris (Argonaut Press). This is a baseball novel (?) with an appendix containing supposed tips by Mays on how to play center field. Here is a non-book ghosted for sure. Even the man who was supposed to have written it, Mays, didn't know he had done it until a reporter mentioned it to him in the Giant's dressing room.

"What book?" Willie asked. "You know, the one with Jeff Harris," the reporter said.

"Who is Jeff Harris?" Mays asked, with a blank look. Harris is identified on the book jacket as a New York free-lance writer. Probable explanation: Willie's agent, Frank Scott, signed Mays for the non-book, for which Willie was paid. But Scott evidently forgot to inform the author he was authoring.

There is an extremely pleasant little Southern novel around. "The Bishop Pattern," by Mary N. Dolim, a Florida young lady who now lives in California.

The Bishop of the title is a small Western Florida paper mill town to which an eight-year-old girl comes to live with infolk. The child is

With Jim Brosnan, relief pitcher and author, the Cincinnati Reds have been the literary National League ball club in recent seasons. The Giants are batting heavily right now.

Last season, in "A Flag for San Francisco" (now in paperback), Charles Einstein described "the stormy honeymoon of a proud city and a divorced baseball team."

This season we have a double-header. "The Giants of San Francisco" (Coward-McCann; \$4.50) is a lively profile by Art Rosenbaum and Bob Stevens.

"My Giants" (Doubleday; \$4.50) is an account of the organization's New York and San Francisco phases by Russ Hodges, its radio voice for some 15 years. Al Hirschberg collaborated with Hodges on this sprightly, anecdotal love letter which ends in an explosion of emotional Toots Shor palship: "They're mine, all mine, and I love them. My Giants..."

Unbelievable as it may sound, I was cutting bread," the President told the awaiting world. The most unbelievable part to me is that the White House doesn't buy already sliced bread. How un-American can he get?

William Hogan

equipped with an abundance of affection which she seeks to lavish on anyone who will accept it. But Bishop has a rigid pattern bound by small-town rules and manners. The setting is the 1930's.

While the book is something less than "To Kill a Mockingbird," and while some of the presumably authentic corn-pone atmosphere may get on your nerves ("He axed where was you"), it does introduce a fresh, sensitive talent and a set of characters that is not a bundle of Southern cliches. (Morrow; \$3.95).

Morning Report:

Our leader is wounded: But unless there are grave complications that defy the latest in wonder drugs, President Kennedy will recover. The cut on the middle finger of his left hand will heal.

But will the American image recover. What was the President of the richest country in the world doing in the White House kitchen? Where was the staff? Or was he cooking up something so special in the food line for the pregnant Mrs. Kennedy that only he could be trusted with it?

"Unbelievable as it may sound, I was cutting bread," the President told the awaiting world. The most unbelievable part to me is that the White House doesn't buy already sliced bread. How un-American can he get?

Abe Mellinkoff

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

U. S. Finds Time Running Out in Middle East Area

CINCINNATI — A newspaper friend in Tel Aviv characterized the U. S. position in regard to the Israel-Arab crisis as a man with his mind on the ballot box and his stomach in oil.

Politics and sentiment tie U. S. leaders to Israel, and the cold logic of oil and defense strategy turn us to the Arabs. Both Israel and the Arabs are well aware of this tight-rope act and wonder in whose direction it will finally fall.

In the event of crisis with Russia, the logistical advantages weigh heavily on the Arab side. It is in this context that President Kennedy's recent statement on U. S. policy was exceedingly cautious to the effect that the U. S. would go to the assistance of Arab or Jew who was invaded.

It is not in the light of possibility that Israel is about to take the Arab world at any time in the foreseeable future. So the president's well-guarded statement was directed at President Nasser and Algerian Premier Ahmed Ben Bella, who again jointly threatened Israel's annihilation.

President Kennedy finds himself even in a worse position than both his predecessors, President Truman and Eisenhower, in the Arab-Israel dispute.

It was Truman who set off Arab hatred in 1948 by his hasty recognition of Israel during the thick of the campaign against Dewey. Undoubtedly there were humanitarian instincts which influenced Mr. Truman... but in the Forrestal-McGrath controversy of what should be done, the Democratic national committee's point on the importance of Jewish votes in the U. S. prevailed. Former Secretary of Defense Forrestal's insistence that a hasty recognition of Israel would alienate 40 million Arabs was considered the lesser of two evils.

President Eisenhower restored some of the loss of U. S. influence in the Arab world by publicly denouncing the British-French-Israeli attack on Egypt and by so doing handed the Suez canal to Nasser. This helped to elevate Nasser to a position of dominance in the Middle East and to kindle his expansionist ambitions for a United Arab republic, with its major goal the defeat of the State of Israel.

Even this generous U. S. gesture did not pacify for long the Nasser goal of Middle East domination. So the U. S., under both Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy, extended Egypt an unprecedented \$800 million in economic aid, about the same amount they extended Israel, since 1954.

But during 1962-63 President Kennedy increased Egypt's share to \$225 million, compared to only \$80 million for Israel. This helped Nasser to divert his own resources to military build-up. Add to this Russia's increasing aid to Nasser, especially in military hardware and offensive weapons, and you have the basis of the present stepped-up campaign by Nasser to overthrow King Hussein of Jordan and close the vise on Israel.

For 15 years now the human convulsion of over a million Arab refugees has been mostly ignored by the West. It is a problem of the greatest magnitude, not only to the suffering Arabs, but to the security of Israel and the peace in the Middle East.

It is around the plight of these refugees that Nasser and other Arab leaders rally their greatest appeal. Yet, little or nothing has been done by the western powers to reduce or remove this cancer.

Compensation or repatriation direct with individual Arab refugees has been possible and could be undertaken now with a loan to Israel, or through a private neutral commission of businessmen to negotiate such a program between the Arab property owners now in exile and the Israel government.

This means that Jews who took over and have profited from this property over the past 15 years should be willing to contribute compensation to the original Arab owners.

Since it has not been possible for either Israel or the Arabs to take the initiative in this direction for 15 years... and the UN proved ineffective in finding a solution... it is up to the western powers to act now before the hateful ambitions of Arab leaders lead the Middle East to a nuclear war.

The Cairo, Baghdad and Algiers radios are blasting epithets to all who oppose their ominous campaign against Jordan. Nasser supporters inside Jordan are being incited to murder King Hussein and establish a pro-Nasser government. Should this be accomplished, war in the Middle East is inevitable.

Until such time as the despotic ambitions of men are under better control, it is a grave risk of nuclear annihilation to appropriate \$10 billion to reach the moon while the world is in peril for need of a fraction of this amount to remove the Arab refugee infection from the Middle East.

Editor's note: Columnist John Morley speaks tonight, Thursday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., on "The Crisis in U. S. Strategic Aims." Admission is free. Also on June 6.

Lucius Beebe

Prophets of Doom Cry On the Way to Bank

It was only a year or so ago that the Indian government, aroused to action by the magnitude of the swindle involved, took police and subsequent legal action against the activities of a widespread group of operators functioning under the guise of a religious sect which was making a very good thing indeed out of the end of the world.

The high priests of instant oblivion, it seems, were spreading doom and gloom, with such success that entire communities, convinced that worldly possessions would be meaningless by tomorrow or Tuesday at the latest, were selling off their household effects at fire sale rates and purchasing dispensations in the impending hereafter from the holy Cassandras.

The fellows in clerical collars, or whatever they wear in India, were taking it from both ends: They were purchasing the castoff properties of the gullible for resale at a substantial profit and they were accepting down payments against immortality at the same time.

The Indian government, with commendable responsibility, took some of the Get Rich Quick Wallingfords of the buffalo wallows into custody. When doomsday didn't materialize as promised, the populace in some communities was sufficiently vexed to hang the priests or toss them, with weights attached, into the Ganges.

I would like to submit that similar or even more summary action against our native prophets of doom who are making a handsome living out of frightening the daylight out of everybody might be a good thing in the United States. Fear and abject terror invoked by highly expert professionals for purposes of commercial profit have become as commonplace forms of merchandise in America today as breakfast foods or cosmetics.

Terror is confectioned in wholesale and retail quantities alike by politicians, publicists, vested commercial interests, the newspaper and periodical press, radio, television the pulpit, practitioners of letters and the movies.

An overwhelming majority of these agencies for congealing the general marrow and perpetuating a public nightmare do so cynically and for personal gain or professional advancement, contaminating the public awareness with statistics of annihilation for cash on the barrelhead and merchandising mendacities of doom with all the contempt for the customers a professional shell game artist reserves for suckers at county fairs.

The horror folklore and mythology of hydrogen warfare have become conventional properties, occasionally updated for greater impact, of publicists and propagandists ranging in deadliness of in-

tent from the bosses of the Kremlin to minor practitioners of science-fiction and lobbyists for manufacturers of military material. Dedicated acolytes and lay helpers are ready to hand in the form of such gulls as lady peace marchers who don't even share in the take.

The louder the screeches and the more anguished the handwringing of the end-of-everything artists, the greater is their apparent concern for material rewards which they will hardly have time to enjoy in a world doomed to almost instantaneous annihilation. The authors of a horror novel called "Fall-Safe," who are among the top ranking marrow freezers of the moment, are currently engaged in copyright disputes on an epic scale over royalties which, in the world cataclysm they foretell, will be completely worthless.

The "Fall-Safe" authors are not interested in laying up treasures in heaven. They want their rewards in immediate, tangible form in a world they profess to believe to be on the brink of certain incineration.

Nor is there any record that the author of a highly touted grand guignol called "On the Beach" ever refused royalties on the best seller of its widely touted film version which was of such grim dimensions that suicides were attributed to it. There are no suicides among those participating in the gate receipts at these assorted previews of hell, who laugh cheerily all the way to the bank after having convincingly demonstrated that, in a fortnight at best, neither they nor the bank will be around at all.

Two of the most assiduous and persistent syndicated entrail watchers who can be relied on to come up with full measures of ghastly forecasts are Drew Pearson and Joe Alsop whose end of the world capers have, over the years and decades, taken on all the aspects of a farewell tour of William Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes." Humanity and civilization have so frequently achieved a bad end in their newspaper articles and magazine pieces as to assume the character of perpetual motion. Yet it is not reported that Mr. Pearson rejects his salary as a mere meaningless down payment on oblivion and it is an established fact that Mr. Alsop lives high on the hog in Georgetown and foretells impenetrable gloom at an extremely favorable rate of remuneration.

As long as the merchants of doom and gloom, wholesale and retail, remain convinced of the validity of prophecy and demand to be paid the going rate for atomizing everything, the rest of us may be excused for taking a dim view of Armageddon along with the integrity of its prophets.

Congratulations, Grad

June, the traditional month of graduation, is approaching and all over the nations, classes are preparing to take their leave of high schools, colleges, and universities, having completed a proscribed course of education.

Among the notices of commencement exercises arriving in the mail these days was one of particular interest to members of The HERALD staff.

It was the notice that the senior class at the University of California will hold commencement exercises on Saturday, June, 8, in the California Memorial Stadium in Berkeley.

Among those graduating with the class will be Gerald L. (Jerry) Reynolds, who will catch the next plane and join The HERALD staff on the following Monday.

For Mr. Reynolds, it will be a homecoming. He first began working as a reporter for this newspaper while still an undergraduate at North High School, and has continued through summer months and vacations during his high school and college career.

Like parents and friends elsewhere, The HERALD is proud of its graduating senior. To him and all the others, we say: Congratulations!

The Abortion Bills

We are disappointed to learn that two badly needed bills which would have broadened California's laws on legal abortions have been assigned to the limbo of an interim study—effectively killing the measures for at least two years.

The bills, authored by Assemblyman Anthony Bielensohn of Beverly Hills, would have legalized abortions if pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, or if a continuation of the pregnancy would threaten the mental or physical health of the mother or child.

Bielensohn's bills set up strict control of the procedures, requiring approval in each case from a special hospital board, and in many cases of the district attorney or a court.

Present laws were described by the legislator as inadequate and discriminatory. State laws "often leads knowingly and premeditatedly and unnecessarily to tragedy," he said.

Backing for the bill came from Dr. Theodore Montgomery on behalf of the State Public Health Department when he said "our present abortion law is both inconsistent and harmful to the public health."

The HERALD recommends serious consideration by the interim committee which catches the study assignment. The bills are admittedly controversial, but that shouldn't deter the legislators from approving what many Californians believe to be essential legislation.

The bills represent both a realistic and humane approach to a growing problem. We think their passage is long overdue.

The Basic Issue

What is the basic issue in the controversy over the bill to provide government paid medical services for everyone drawing social security benefits—whether or not they want or need them?

A good general answer comes from Editor Nick B. Williams of the Los Angeles Times. The plan, he says, "... involves a major leap toward socialism. . . . If the government can do this to doctors, it also can do it to steelworkers and insurance salesmen, to all those who work either for a fee or for a wage. I don't want to oversimplify this too much. . . but once the principal of government responsibility for services and for scales and wage rates and profit ceilings is established—and they are completely inter-related—we will have made the basic shift away from a system of private enterprise. . . the doctors are fighting for individual freedom, your freedom—no matter what you do—as well as their own. The principal of individual freedom is the stake."

Mr. Williams doesn't think the doctors are doing as good a job as they should in conducting this fight. That is probably true—they're too busy taking care of patients, conducting research, and carrying on their day-to-day obligations. Then, doctors, for the most part, aren't politically minded, and few of them are politically skilled—which is to their credit! But they are fighting for individual freedom.

Opinions of Others

"Since the general civilization of mankind I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual silent encroachment to those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

Thus wrote James Madison, one of the architects of the American Republic, long ago. History since has vindicated his view. There have been blood revolutions, it is true. But far greater numbers of despotisms have been created while the people slept.

Drew Middleton of the New York Times writes from Paris: "A great many Europeans who believe in the Atlantic community, meaning a strong link between the United States and Western Europe, hope that America will do something soon to stop what is termed the rot in Western Europe. Something visible to all must be done, they feel, if the dissolution of the European side of the alliance is to (be) checked. If it continues, they fear Americans may conclude that a Europe that does not recognize the real dangers of international life is best left to herself." Mr. Middleton's point is that disputes among the European nations, despite all the alliances, may weaken their resistance to the Communist bloc.

"Going Whole Hog" might make a dent in your food budget, but the expression does not have its origin in food, says the American Meat Institute. Long ago a 10-cent piece was called a hog. So a sport who was willing to squander a dime was said to "go the whole hog."

YOUR RED CROSS

Always there... with your help